

#BXNFMXY
#000029103231#
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620

CARRIER ROUTE 39
005-DTM 3-23
S0000

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MARCH 23, 2000

VOL. 124

No. 7

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

New CAC head chosen

4

Acteens Crosswalk set

5

BF&M study release set

7

Sunday School lessons

11

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Nashville, Tennessee

APR 04 2000

THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Partnership yields growing congregation

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

In May 1999, a nine-member team — seven members of Goodwater Church, Magee, a Simpson County Methodist pastor, and a layman from Louisiana — traveled to Kotovka, Ukraine, and began a relationship that has resulted in the near completion of a church building there and the strengthening of the Goodwater congregation.

Brent Barker, pastor of Goodwater Church, said the trip was a life-changing experience and a demonstration of how mission involvement can help revitalize a local church.

June Nolen, who along with her husband Thomas serve as on-site coordinators for the Mississippi-Ukraine Baptist partnership, said the Lord has done a remarkable work in Kotovka, an area that hardly had a Christian witness for over 70 years.



ROAD TO CHURCH — Kotovka Church pastor Nickolai Kuashenko, stands along the road that leads to the Ukrainian congregation's new church building, which is visible in the background. (BR special photo)

About 20 miles north of Odessa, Kotovka had only four families of believers in 1991 when the former Soviet state of Ukraine became an independent democracy.

Christians were scattered, and due to poor communication, a lack of transportation, and the old fear of reprisals, they were slow in locating one another in the early days of freedom, Nolen indicated.

One of the first Christian groups in the Odessa province were the Gideons, who began working in Kotovka in 1991. Due in a large part to the ministry of the Gideons, by 1994 there was an officially registered church with 34 members, Nolen said.

After a few difficult years, in 1997 pastor Nickolai Kuashenko was sent to Kotovka and the church began to grow again.

In 1998, Nolen said, the church received permission from the government to build and was granted land. An old railroad car was purchased and placed on the property for them to hold worship. That year the church baptized nine new believers.

Construction was started in July of 1998, and a basement facility was completed. Additional work was slow. Then Ukrainian Baptists entered into the partnership agreement with Mississippi Baptists, and the first mission team arrived from Simpson County.

Barker said when they arrived in Kotovka, they gave pastor Nickolai Kuashenko the cash the church had collected for the building project.

The pastor took the cash, went straight to the market, and

purchased building supplies. We were unloading material the whole time we were there," Barker said.

In addition to helping with the construction, Mississippi's first partnership team to the Ukraine distributed Gideon New Testaments, conducted day camps for children, and held evangelistic services in Kotovka and surrounding area, Barker said.

The most memorable preaching experience for Barker was in the village of Augustobka, about 15 miles north of Kotovka — the first time the Gospel had been preached there in over 70 years.

"I preached in the middle of a field, with grass about waist high," Barker recalled.

The bed of an old military truck was used as the platform. Workers knocked down the grass and positioned wooden benches around the truck, Barker said.

Ironically, it was across the street from the town pub.

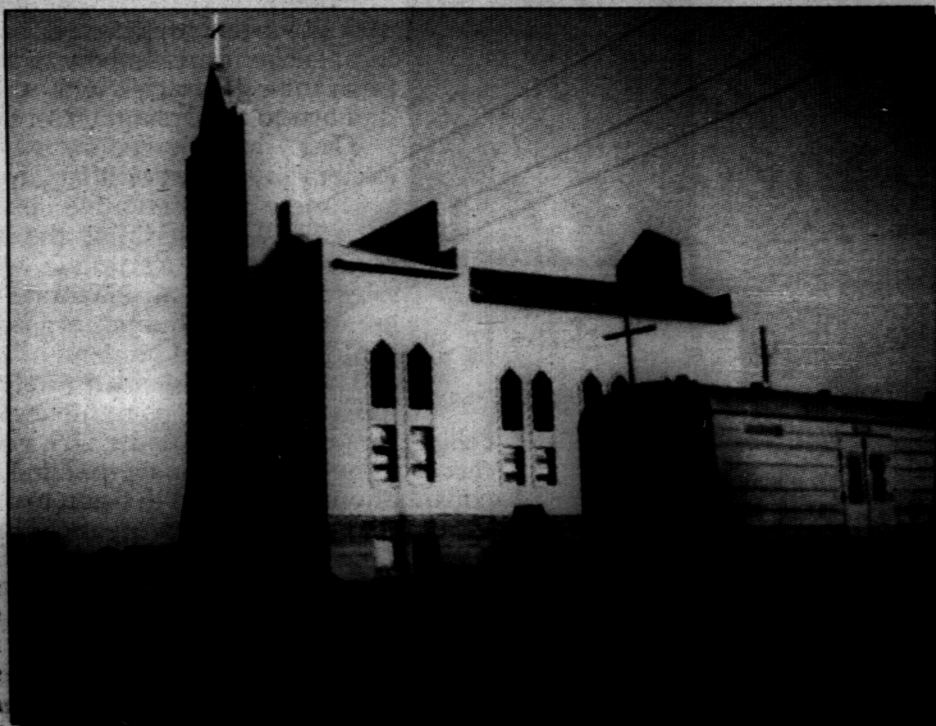
"Over 100 people came," he said. "We had to break up the service because the cows came home."

One of the men outside the Augustobka pub who heard the Gospel indicated he wanted to come to church and "repent." The Ukrainians do not use the phrase "make a profession of faith." Converts are called to repent, Barker pointed out.

Also, because of the long-time influence of both Russian and Eastern Orthodoxy, it is foreign to Ukrainians to pray outside of a church building. Thus, the completion of a church building is very important.

Nolen indicated that the man may be one of the eleven who came to the Kotovka church to repent this summer.

The Goodwater Church mission team left with a commitment to see the building



GOSPEL BEACON — The railroad car used as a worship facility by the Kotovka Church in Ukraine stands silent watch as the church's new building rises in the background. Mississippi Baptist partners, including Goodwater Church, Simpson Association, have been instrumental in the development of the church. (BR special photo)

to completion. All totaled, Goodwater Church has sent nearly \$15,000 to the Kotovka congregation — allowing the Ukrainian Christians to complete the roof and add a cross to their main building in January of this year. They are currently working on a kitchen building.

Barker says the Mississippi group plans to return to Kotovka later this year.

Not only has Goodwater Church helped build a church in Ukraine, they have built a church in Brazil, committed to building a church in Haiti, and are helping a church in Maryland (Mississippi Baptists also have an ongoing partnership with the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware).

During this time of mission going and giving, the Goodwater Church congregation has built their own new sanctuary and reduced building indebtedness from \$150,000 to \$25,000, while also implementing the FAITH evangelism strategy.

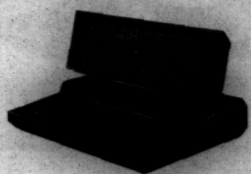
The last Sunday in February, Goodwater Church had 228 in Sunday School. The church averaged 201 for the month of February — 41 more than the same time period last year, Barker indicated.

"I believe God will bless a congregation in direct proportion to its mission-giving, and -going, and -doing," Barker said.

Barker said he cannot claim any credit for what God is doing in his church. "This is what happens when a church has a heart for missions."

For more information on partnership missions, contact Paul Harrell, director of the Mississippi Baptist Partnership Missions Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3235 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. E-mail: pharrell@mbcb.org.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H.
Perkins Jr.**
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Carl M. White

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATE
Florence Larrimore

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Renee Walley

BOOKKEEPER
Betty Anne Bailey

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Joylin Davis

ADVERTISING/PROOFREADER
Heather Cumberland

EDITORS EMERITI
Don McGregor
Guy Henderson

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Grant Arinder, Ridgeland
Bettye Coward, Clinton
Charles Dunagin, McComb
Allan Nix, Laurel
David Petty, Jackson
Gary Richardson, West Point
Heather Cumberland, secretary

**Postmaster: Send changes of address
to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box
530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Send
news, communication, and address
changes to The Editor, BAPTIST
RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS
39205-0530 (601) 968-3800
missrecord@aol.com**

VOLUME 124 NUMBER 7
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$8.35 per
year payable in advance. Economy plans
available for cooperating Mississippi
churches. Periodicals postage paid at
Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State
Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items —
one calendar week prior to requested pub-
lication date. Advertising — two calendar
weeks prior to requested publication date.

The plank in our eye

For the past year or so, national news media have been hot on the trail of a big story. Reports had been circulating for some time that Chinese government authorities were basing death penalty decisions on whether the condemned person was a medical match for wealthy foreigners in need of organ transplants.

If so, the condemned person was given anticoagulants and other drugs to preserve his organs and shot precisely in the back of the head. His still-warm body was transported to a laboratory for removal of the needed organs before a pauper's burial or release to family members.

Then the whispers turned into a major break for news media. Someone smuggled out of China a videotape that is alleged to be part of a government program to train local executioners in how to accomplish their grisly task with minimal damage to transplantable organs.

That was followed by a hidden camera investigation that captured a Chinese representative stationed in America describing the transplant program, complete with a sales pitch and an elaborate price list for various human organs that could be attained on demand.

The nation recoiled in horror. Indignant human rights activists called for some action by the U.S. government. Chinese diplomats were called in for consultations and forced to listen to official condemnations of their organs-for-profit trade. America was in high dudgeon.

The protests fell on deaf ears. Chinese authorities predictably ignored the American outrage — and why shouldn't they?

In a country where high-sounding excuses are offered for expelling one-third of an entire generation from their mothers' wombs in the bloodiest possible ways, it's difficult for one's moral preachments to be taken seriously by others.

Worse still comes confirmation that abortion clinics in the U.S. have for quite

some time been collaborating with private, for-profit groups to collect the broken bodies of aborted babies for organ removal (did you really believe this was all about "reproductive choice?").

The ABC television network's newsmagazine, 20/20, last week broadcast their months-long undercover investigation into the lucrative American market for fetal body parts.

There on the hidden camera was Missouri pathologist Miles Jones, owner of a company called Opening Lines, feasting on lobster bisque and roast duck in an ornate private dining room while discussing the huge amounts of money to be made from dissecting babies.

Projecting income of \$50,000 per month, Jones described the growing research demands for baby parts as a "market force." According to an Opening Lines price list obtained by 20/20 which contained the slogan, "Fresh fetal tissue shipped to your specifications," a baby's spinal cord can be ordered for \$325, and a brain less than eight weeks gestation goes for \$999.

Unaware that he was being recorded, Jones shared his dream of opening his own abortion clinic so he could raise the volume of available fetal tissue.

"If you control the flow, it's probably the equivalent of the invention of the assembly line," he bragged.

Jones even boasted of manipulating vulnerable women into signing consent forms donating their aborted children to medical research, with a 90% success rate.

"You can do something that has got all the legal mumbo-jumbo in it, and they'll sign it anyway," he said.

Although fetal tissue research and

**"I BELIEVE IN GOD — AND I
HAVE THE BRACELETS AND KEY
CHAINS AND PINS AND CD'S
AND VIDEOS AND BOOK COVERS
TO PROVE IT!"**



experimentation is permissible in this country thanks to one of President Bill Clinton's earliest executive orders, profiting from the traffic in baby parts is illegal.

20/20 reporter Chris Wallace seemed astounded that officials were averting their eyes from this blatant criminal activity. "We couldn't find anyone in the federal government enforcing the laws," he said.

So there you have it. The most Christian nation on earth lecturing the most atheistic nation on earth about the moral depravity of killing humans to profit from their body parts.

The question is, how can anyone tell us apart?

GUEST OPINION:

Bogus! Bogus! Bogus!

*The Biblical Recorder
Raleigh, N.C.*

called the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and asked for an official response. Here are a few facts about this unfortunate business:

◆ In December 1974, Jeremy D. Lansman and Lorenzo W. Milam filed a petition asking the FCC to inquire into operating practices of stations licensed to religious organizations. The petition, routinely assigned the number RM-2493, asked that no new non-commercial broadcasting licenses be granted until the inquiry was completed. The petition was denied by the FCC Aug. 1, 1975, and it has been dead ever since.

The FCC explained in 1975 that it is required by the First Amendment "to observe a stance of neutrality toward religion." Indeed, "the Communications Act (the law that established the FCC and defines its authority)

prohibits the FCC from censoring broadcast material and interfering with freedom of speech in broadcasting," according to the memo.

◆ No federal law or regulation gives the FCC the authority to prohibit radio and television stations from presenting religious programs. A recent FCC opinion that received much negative publicity in Christian circles ruled that purely preaching programs did not always qualify as "educational" programming. This ruling concerned educational licenses only, however, and it was quickly reversed.

According to its memo, "The FCC cannot direct any broadcaster to present, or refrain from presenting, announcements or programs on religion, and the FCC cannot act as an arbitrator on the insights or accuracy of such material."

Broadcasters alone — not the FCC, nor any other governmental agency — are responsible for selecting the programming aired by their stations.

Since 1975, the FCC says it has received and responded to millions of inquiries about these rumors, yet they keep persisting. The advent of e-mail just spreads them more quickly.

Let Baptists do their part to squelch erroneous rumors such as this and the equally insidious and persistent claim that Proctor & Gamble promotes satanic worship. God is not honored by the spreading of falsehood, even by well-meaning believers who don't know the rumor is a hoax.

In any event, now you know better. You've got the facts to support you. You can download this editorial from the Biblical Recorder's Web site, www.biblicalrecorder.org and attach it to your reply the next time a concerned friend forwards you yet another version of "the rumor that wouldn't die."

In the subject line, of course, you can write, "Bogus! Bogus! Bogus!"

Edited for space. The Biblical Recorder is the journal of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Iran progressing; Christians still oppressed

TEHRAN, Iran (BP) — Iran moved another step closer to freedom nearly a generation after the nation's Islamic revolution when reformist President Mohammad Khatami and his allies won major victories in February's parliamentary elections.

Iranian Christians have some advice for outsiders expecting a new birth of religious liberty in post-revolutionary Iran: Don't hold your breath.

"I've seen a lot of indications of change, and I believe (Khatami) wants change," says a Christian worker in close touch with Iran's much-persecuted evangelical minority, "but make no mistake. Even though the rhetoric is moderation, it doesn't necessarily mean there is more openness for what we want to do."

Just a week after the elections, Iran's "religion police" were searching apartments in Tehran, Iran's capital, for forbidden satellite TV receivers. The dragnet illustrated the con-

tinuing power of Islamic fundamentalists — regardless of public support for more freedom — to intimidate average Iranians. Iran's small evangelical Christian community and other

better deal in Iran. In fact, after Khatami was first elected (in 1997), when the world rejoiced, there was a new wave of pressure put on the church in Iran. So what you see is not what you get."

Iran's Islamic religious authorities retain ultimate power, including the military and the right to veto any legislation passed by parliament. The ayatollahs have shown no sign of greater tolerance toward certain religious minorities.

Converts to Christ and those who lead them to faith can still face harsh persecution — including death.

Authorities have become particularly vigilant in recent years in curbing what is

perceived as increased proselytizing activities by evangelical Christians," notes the just-released 1999 Report on International Religious Freedom from the U.S. State Department. "Government officials have reacted to this perceived activity by closing evangelical churches and arresting converts."

Christians also must carry church membership cards and present them on demand, according to the report. Church leaders must inform the Ministry of Information and Islamic Guidance before receiving new believers into their congregations. Reports of ongoing harassment include the posting of Islamic Revolutionary Guards outside Christian churches to "discourage" Muslims or Muslim converts to Christ from entering.

Up to 23 "disappearances" of

evangelical believers in Iran were reported in 1997-1998 alone.

Despite such conditions, Iranian believers inside and outside Iran are cautiously optimistic about the political changes — and hoping for more.

"They feel it's a very important time to pray that the relationship between the United States and Iran might change," says a Christian worker.

"The Iranian Christian community (in the United States) is praying and indeed is beginning to write letters to the White House asking President Clinton to reconsider the U.S. economic embargo against Iran. They feel that if America takes a softening stand, Iran will respond."

More than 60% of Iran's population of 66 million is age 30



religious minorities can expect the same and probably worse.

"Among the Iranian Christians we talked to there is no real sense that anything is going to change for Christians" in the near term, says another long-time Iran observer. "They do not feel Muslim converts (to Christ) are going to have any

Missiologist Belew dies

ROME, Ga. (BP) — Wendell Belew, 77, a noted Southern Baptist missiologist and retired director of the Missions Ministries Division of the former Home Mission Board (HMB), died March 8 in a Georgia hospital.

He had been hospitalized following injuries received in an automobile accident in Rome Feb. 24. His wife, the former Edna Record, sustained minor injuries in the accident.

Belew served with the HMB, now North American Mission Board, for 37 years before his retirement in 1988. A Kentucky native and Rome resident, he began his ministry with the agency as director of Mountain Missions with the Kentucky Baptist Convention in 1951.

For years Belew was a regular speaker at national Woman's Missionary Union and Southern Baptist Convention annual meetings, sharing firsthand stories of missions needs met, especially in the rural, forgotten areas of his native Kentucky.

He authored the popular "The Dark's A-Creepin'," a 1965 mission study book on home missions which was later expanded and published by Broadman Press in 1979; "Song of Hawaii," a 1969 book on home missions; and "Churches and How They Grow," published by Broadman Press in 1971. He also authored several other articles and books for Woman's Missionary Union, the Home Mission Board, and the former Brotherhood Commission.

He was the recipient of the 44 millionth copy of "Good News for Modern Man" in recognition of having instigated the American Bible Society to produce an easy-to-understand translation called "Today's English Version" that was a breakthrough in Bible publishing.

He is survived by his wife, Edna; and three children. Services were at Second Avenue Church in Rome with burial in Spring Hill Cemetery in Harrodsburg, Ky.



Belew

MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST
Record

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MARCH 23, 2000

VOL. 124

No. 7

and under. Many of them seem more interested in economic opportunity and stability than ideological war with the West.

"They don't remember the revolution," says one insider. "They don't have any bones to pick. How many kids in the U.S. remember Vietnam?"

They also are increasingly open to the Christian gospel — especially those who travel or live outside Iran. Four million Iranians now live in other countries; half of them are in the United States.

So why are Iranians responding to the gospel now?

Many Iranians have been pushed into a search for truth by the suffering and dislocation of the 1979 Islamic revolution, the long Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s, and other hardships.

A massive prayer movement among Christians worldwide for Iranians apparently has increased the intensity of their search — and led many to find Jesus Christ.

Looking back

10 years ago

A mission building team from Highland Church, Vicksburg, travels to Iuka to help Southwood Church construct a sanctuary, classrooms, and restroom facilities. Southwood Church pastor James B. Brown says volunteers have done most of the construction work at the church.

20 years ago

The executive committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board guarantees financial assistance to Clarke College in Newton for the 1981 spring semester. Declining enrollment has created financial problems for the only Baptist-affiliated junior college in Mississippi.

50 years ago

Every seat in the spacious auditorium of Southern Seminary's new Alumni Memorial Chapel is filled for dedication services on March 23. The Georgian Colonial architecture building was paid for by donations from alumni of Southern Baptists' oldest seminary.

Porter to head Christian Action Commission

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Jimmy D. Porter, 54, pastor of First Church, McComb, was chosen March 14 to serve as executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC), the ethics and morals agency of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.



NEW CAC LEADER — Trustees of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC) welcome the commission's new executive director-treasurer, Jimmy Porter (front row, third from right), pastor of First Church, McComb, and his wife Tommye Lynn (front row, third from left) after a special called meeting March 14 at the Baptist Building in Jackson. Flanking the Porters are Bill Hardin (front row, second from left), pastor of First Church, Picayune, and chairman of the search committee; James Walters (front row, second from right), pastor of First Church, Foxworth, and CAC chairman; and Rita Wood (front row, right), CAC administrative assistant. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Porter replaces Paul G. Jones II of Clinton, who retired August 18, 1999, after nearly 18 years as CAC executive director-treasurer.

"For 37 years God has allowed me to pastor some of his choicest churches, with the past nine-and-a-half years being First Church, McComb. I am grateful for

their love, support, and freedom to be involved in my community and our state convention.

"The opportunity of assisting the churches and people of our state in making Christ-like decisions relative to moral and social concerns is both challenging and exciting. My desire is that CAC be faithful in honoring our Lord, and diligent in executing its duties and assignments as commissioned by the Mississippi Baptist Convention," Porter said.

In addition to First Church, McComb, where Porter has pastored for nearly ten years, he also pastored St. Andrew Church, Panama City, Fla. (1985-90); First Church, Louisville (1982-85); Grace Memorial Church, Gulfport (1979-82); Salem Church, Cave City, Ky. (1976-79); Pleasant Ridge Church, New Albany (1971-76); Old Pearl Valley Church, Philadelphia (1969-71); White Oak Church, Philadelphia (1966-69); and Sardis Church, Philadelphia (1964-67).

Porter, a native of Philadelphia, has been active on associational, state, and denominational levels. He has been a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) executive committee, Mississippi College board of trustees, MBCB order of business committee, and the Southern Baptist Convention nominating committee.

Porter has also served as first vice-president (1992-93) and president (1996-97) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

He is a graduate of Baptist-affiliated Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain (B.A. '74); Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. (M.Div. '78); and New Orleans Seminary in New Orleans (D.Min. '84).

"I have been in his home, preached

revival services in his church, and was privileged to nominate him for president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. I have observed his commitment to ethical and moral values, and I have recognized that he is a man of integrity.

"It is my privilege to commend him to Mississippi Baptists without reservation," said Kermit McGregor, pastor of First Church, Mendenhall, and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

"For over a third of a century Mississippi Baptists have turned to Jimmy Porter to fill leadership roles, and on every occasion he has responded superbly. I have no doubt that his selection as the new executive director-treasurer of CAC will prove to be a very positive decision for years to come.

"Dr. Porter brings to the position a keen mind and a heart that is a blend of sensitivity and courage," observed Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

James Walters, pastor of First Church, Foxworth, and CAC chairman, expressed his personal appreciation for the work of the search committee and its chairman, Bill Hardin, pastor of First Church, Picayune.

"Dr. Porter will do an outstanding job for CAC and Mississippi Baptists. We ask that prayers are offered all over our state for Dr. Porter in his new and challenging position. Our trustees look forward with great anticipation to many faithful years of service with him," Walters said.

Porter will begin his new duties on April 1. He can be reached at MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3332.

Zambia missionaries victims of armed carjacking

LUSAKA, Zambia (BP) — A Southern Baptist missionary family in Zambia said they are praising God after surviving a Feb. 17 carjacking by armed bandits.

Southern Baptist church planters Steve and Shirley Taylor, along with their 9-year-old daughter, McKelvey, were not injured when the four gunmen brandished automatic weapons and ordered them out of their vehicle.

Taylor recounted the events surrounding the incident in the Zambezi River Valley in an e-mail distributed to prayer partners, family and friends.

"Upon our return [from dinner] at about 8:40 p.m., we pulled into the drive ... and blew our horn for the guard to open the gate," Taylor wrote. "At the same time, we saw a vehicle pull directly behind ..."

The four armed men promptly jumped from the vehicle. "Two of the men were at my window yelling for me to open the truck, and another man was aiming a rifle at my family on the passenger's side," he wrote.

When the men threatened to kill the family, "I realized there was only one thing to do," Taylor continued. "I had to surrender the truck."

Taylor's wife and daughter complied with the attackers' order to get out of the truck and lie on the ground face-down, and Taylor was pushed to the ground by a man with a gun to the back of Taylor's head.

The man took Taylor's wallet, and the other three attackers jumped in the family's truck and drove away, Taylor wrote.

As the man who had taken Taylor's wallet was getting back into his car to leave, Taylor recounted, "For some reason known only to the Lord, I shouted, 'At least let me have my wallet back. It only has pictures of my grandbaby inside.'"

"Much to my surprise, he threw it at me and jumped into the car," Taylor wrote.

Taylor wrote that he was able to roll out of the way of the vehicle when, while leaving, the final assailant tried to back over him.

Taylor told his e-mail readers about ways they could pray and offer praise.

Please pray for McKelvey," Taylor said first, noting that the experience was "very traumatic for her, as you might imagine."

Taylor also requested prayer for their ministry, which lost a new mission vehicle.

Soaring eagles



Receiving Eagle Awards at the Sunday School Growth Seminar held at First Church, Starkville, were: (front row, from left) Mike Harrison, adult division director, Trinity Church, Southaven; Robert Dottley, associate pastor, Longview Heights Church, Olive Branch; John Clendinning, Sunday School consultant, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, (back row, from left) Travis Bundrick, minister of education, Trinity Church, Southaven; John Miller, minister to senior adults, Trinity Church, Southaven; Wayne Marshall, pastor, Longview Heights, Olive Branch; Jerry Fuqua, minister of education/administration, Longview Heights, Olive Branch; Tommy Mitchell, pastor, First Church, Pearl; Michael Pierce, minister of education, First Church, Pearl; Daniel Edmonds, conference leader, Alabama Baptist Convention. (Photo by Carl M. White)

Clark to speak at legal society breakfast

Mississippi Secretary of State Eric Clark will be the featured speaker for the annual Christian Legal Society (CLS) Prayer Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. on March 28 at First Church, Jackson. Clark, who is serving his second term as Secretary of State, is a member of First Church, Brandon. Tickets to the breakfast are required. For ticket information, call (601) 925-7100.

Miss. Acteens launch year-long Crosswalk

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

Mississippi Baptist Acteens launched CrossWalk during the 2000 Mississippi Acteens Convention (MAC) at William Carey College in Hattiesburg, on March 3. CrossWalk is a year-long project that will involve moving an actual cross throughout the state from one Acteens group to another, while conducting ministry projects.

Acteens is the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) mission program in the local church for girls, grades seven through 12.

"The idea behind CrossWalk is that every week of the year, beginning in March, a different Acteen or Youth on Mission group will have the cross. During

that week, they will participate in a ministry project in their community. At the end of the week, they will hand off the cross to another Acteens group," said Robin Keels, Acteens consultant for Mississippi WMU.

The purpose is to provide opportunities for local mission groups to model what they think Jesus would do if he were to visit their community, Keels indicated.

CrossWalk is based on Luke 9:23: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." (NIV)

The cross will traverse an "S" path through the state of Mississippi during the next 12 months, visiting each of the nine areas of the state for five to six weeks before moving on.

A CrossWalk coordinator has been selected for each of the nine divisions of the state that are recognized in Baptist work, Keels said.

To sign up to participate in a CrossWalk project in your area, Keels said to contact the area coordinator listed in the data box in the margin of this page.

"The coordinator will send additional information, including a CrossWalk event report form," Keels said.

CrossWalk began in the state of Florida two years ago. After a year, Florida Acteens passed the cross off to Kentucky Acteens, who kept it for a year.

During this year's MAC meeting, the cross was passed from Kentucky Acteens to Mississippi Acteens.

For the year 2000, there are two CrossWalk crosses — one in Mississippi and the other in Alabama, Keels said.

Denise Gardner, Acteens director at First Church, Shelbyville, Ky., along with her daughters Charity and Rebecca, were in Hattiesburg to present the cross to Mississippi Acteens.

Gardner shared about different kinds of ministry projects that were conducted around the state and how, as a result of one CrossWalk project, a Hispanic ministry was started.

Receiving the cross from the Kentucky Acteens was the Mississippi Acteens Panel, which consists of Miranda Andrews of Ecu Church, Ecu; Kimberly Cole of First Church, Brandon; Ashley Claudia of Union Church, Carriere; and Kellie Pickens of Liberty Church, Blue Springs.

For more information on the CrossWalk or the Acteens program in Mississippi, contact Keels at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, WMU Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3322, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 322. E-mail: rkeels@mbcb.org.



AT THE CROSS — Members of the State Acteens Panel participate in a prayer time March 3 at the state Acteens Convention at William Carey College in Hattiesburg. They are (from left) Kimberly Cole, First Church, Brandon; Kellie Pickens, Liberty Church, Blue Springs; and Ashley Claudia, Union Church, Carriere. (Photo by Carl M. White)

Sense Not Censor

Last Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. a new television program, a cartoon sitcom called "God, The Devil, and Bob," was scheduled to air across Mississippi and the rest of the country. For the most part, Mississippians did not see the show. One station ran the program as scheduled and I was told another rescheduled it for showing around midnight, but most chose not to carry the program at all. In the Jackson area the station manager of WLBT briefly explained that their station felt the program was inappropriate for viewing and instead would run a program produced by Focus on the Family.

Because The Baptist Record is on some type of media mail-out list, a copy of the first episode was received with additional showings of future shows. I was asked and encouraged to watch the video and to give my feelings about what I saw. Well, to put it plainly, I couldn't believe what I saw! God reduced to a cartoon character does not fit my theological understanding of the Lord! Then when you add to that, God being portrayed as a character hanging around the corner bar sipping on Light Beer and joking around with Satan — well, for me it was way off the chart of decency!



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

I am not here making an appeal for censorship and I am aware of the arguments put forth by those who oppose any kind of censoring. I also recognize that freedom of speech is a part of our great American freedom, and I stand squarely on the side of any- and everyone having the right to speak out.

I am aware, also, of those people who would say that the television station should be able to show anything they want to, and for folks who do not wish to watch something whether it be trash or treasure, all they have to do is turn it off. I know that. Furthermore, I am certainly aware that God does not need me to defend him! He can handle any and every situation. He is certainly fully capable of standing up for himself.

With all that said, I do feel a strong obligation to stand up and speak up for children and young

people who would be attracted to such a program and would have a perfect opportunity of watching at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday night. Our children do not need to be subjected to the kind of warped thinking that is presented in this television program. Neither God nor the Devil in this show are the beings that are presented in Scripture. They are exaggerated, distorted, and often sick misrepresentations of truth.

Nearly always they are presented at their best or worst, depending on how you look at it, in a humorous moment. Humor is a wonderful thing, but when it is used to trivialize great and important things, spiritual and significant things in life, it is no longer "funny" — it is simply mean!

One feature that stood out to me in the presentations which I saw, was God's involvement in either drinking or sharing a beer with someone else. When

you realize that of all the drugs available in our society, that one stands above all the rest as the most destructive and addictive, you begin to see how warped this is. Alcohol-related diseases, wrecks, and deaths ruin more people than all the other drugs combined. In this "silly" sitcom, God and his buddy, Bob, are often drinking at the bar or they are in Bob's home having a "cool one."

The God of the Bible, who acted in grace and love to come to us, to meet with us, to take on our humanity, is not a God who came simply to participate in what brought on our failures. Jesus is fully God and fully human, but he is not vile, or crass, or evil.

While this television program concerned me, what disturbed me personally even more was the fact that it seemed to run everywhere else across the country with little or no concern or reaction. There were a few comments, but mostly there were "quips" and "loud yawns." Parents who object greatly to Saturday morning violence on cartoons apparently are unable to see the long-term illness produced by diseased doctrine.

Honestly, I am not here giving a call to censorship, but I am pleading for "good sense!"

CrossWalk schedule

Area 1
April 9 - May 21, 2000
Yvonne Taylor
344 Wildcat Bottom Road
Red Bank, MS 38661
(662) 851-7331 (home)
(662) 252-4371 (work)

Area 2
March 5 - April 9, 2000
Dana Pickens
1033 CR 206
Blue Springs, MS 38828
(662) 534-8057

Area 3
May 21 - July 2, 2000
Glenda Braswell
P. O. Box 573
Boyle, MS 38730
(601) 843-9611

Area 4
July 2 - Aug. 13, 2000
Ann Stone
Route 1, Box 359
Mantee, MS 39751
(662) 456-4440

Area 5
Sept. 24 - Nov. 5, 2000
Liz Harper
2237 Woodland Place
Florence, MS 39073
(601) 845-3380

Area 6
Aug. 13 - Sept. 24, 2000
Kathy Pearce
P. O. Box 689
Decatur, MS 39327
(601) 635-3880

Area 7
Nov. 5 - Dec. 17, 2000
Liz McGraw
P. O. Box 1460
Woodville, MS 39369
(601) 888-3255

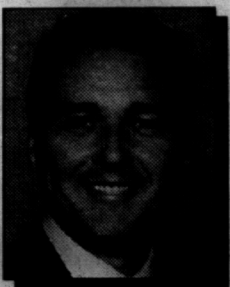
Area 8
Dec. 17, 2000 - Jan. 28, 2001
Melinda McGregor
202 Moss Lane
Petal, MS 39465
(601) 582-9725

Area 9
Jan. 28 - March 4, 2001
Donna Sauls
10 Virginia Drive Lot 2
Poplarville, MS 39470
(601) 795-2148 (home)
(601) 982-5281 (work)

STAFF CHANGES

Calvary Church, Canton, has called **Guion Ellis** as interim pastor. Ellis retired from First Church, Terry, in December 1992 as pastor. Since that time he has served as interim in Mt. Zion, Lincoln County, and Noxapater Church, Winston Association.

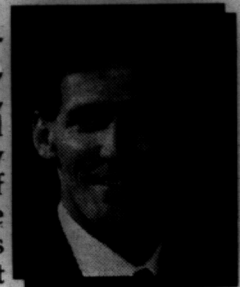
Auburn Church, Tupelo, has called **Bobby Burt** as pastor effective Feb.



Burt

1. He was formerly pastor of Calvary Church in Pascagoula.

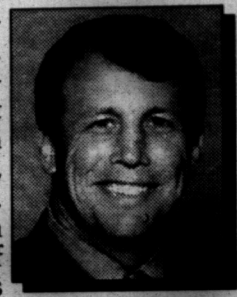
Meadowview Church, Starkville, has called **Keith Dendy** as minister of music. He received his education at Blue Mountain College and New Orleans Seminary. Dendy previously served as pastor at Glendale Church, Leland, for six years. Melvin G. Mordecai is pastor.



Dendy

Calvary Church, Canton, has accepted the resignation of **James Hurt** as interim pastor effective Oct. 9.

Rock Hill Church, Mt. Olive, has called **Todd Sumrall** as pastor effective Jan. 1. He previously served at Eastlawn Church, Pascagoula. Sumrall is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary.



Sumrall

Broadmoor Church, Madison, has called **Dennis Johnsey** as pastor effective January 16. He previously served at Florida Boulevard Church, Baton Rouge, La. A native of Corinth, Johnsey received his education at Mississippi State University, Southwestern Seminary, and New Orleans Seminary.



Johnsey

Homecomings

Plainway, Laurel: April 2; 50th anniversary; 11 a.m. service followed by lunch in Family Life Center; Harold C. Ishee, first pastor of the church and served for 35 years, guest speaker; J. Nonnie Jefcoat, pastor.

Branch, Morton: April 9; 10 a.m. until noon followed by dinner; T. W. Henderson, guest speaker; Richard Sparks, music; Katie Measells and Pam Sparks, organ and piano; Michael Giles, pastor; Norman Huggins, minister of music.

BHS's 'Camp Wheez-Away' scheduled for July

Baptist Health Systems, Jackson, is partnering with the American Lung Association and the Mississippi Asthma Collaborative to sponsor the second annual "Camp Wheez-Away" for children ages nine through 12 with asthma.

Set for July 10-14 at Camp Wesley Pines in Gallman, the camp will offer children entertainment and a fun way to learn how to manage their asthma more successfully. Physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, and other health professionals will provide supervision.

"Any child ages nine through 12 who has asthma is

eligible to attend Camp Wheez-Away," said Sandra Holman of Baptist Health Systems.

"Last year's weekend camp was a resounding success. There will be lots of fun and educational activities to

make kids feel better about handling their asthma, and to just have fun," she said.

Registration for Camp Wheez-Away 2000 will be taken until May 12. Scholarships are available. Potential attendees must be

referred by a physician. To apply for Camp Wheez-Away, or to get more information, contact Tom Kearns at the American Lung Association of Mississippi at 1-800-737-5453 or by e-mail at tkearns@aolms.org.

Jamie Warren Tynes, minister, dies

Jamie Warren Tynes, 68, of Waynesboro, died March 7. He was a graduate of Poplarville High School, Clarke College, Mississippi College, New Orleans Seminary, and a M. Ed from William Carey College. He received certification as a

Guidance Counselor from Mississippi State University.

Tynes was ordained to the ministry at age 17 in Poplarville. Over the past 50 years he pastored Linwood and Old Pearl Valley churches in Neshoba County; and West Poplarville

and New Henleyfield churches in Pearl River County. For the last 42 years he has pastored Heidelberg Church, Heidelberg. He served as adjunct professor at William Carey College from 1980-1990.

Survivors include his wife Patty Cliburn Tynes of Waynesboro; sons, Greg and Scott Tynes, both of Waynesboro; sister, Glenda Jarrell of Lafayette, La.; and four grandchildren.

A scholarship fund has been established in his memory at First State Bank in Waynesboro.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Raising the Walls of Palestine Church will sponsor a gospel singing at 7 p.m. on March 25 in McKenzie Arena at Hinds Community College. Palestine Church, Raymond, burned on January 17. The event will be hosted by Jack Hollingsworth and will include Tim Frith and Gospel Echoes, Born Again Quartet, Jason Sullivan, Jon Steadman, and Buster and Pat Wilson. Jerry File is the pastor of Palestine Church. For more information, call (601) 885-2002.

Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, will host the 25th anniversary recital of organist, Patsy Simpson, on March 26 at 6 p.m. In addition to her duties as organist, Simpson has served as children's choir coordinator and director of the adult handbell choir. She will

be honored with a reception immediately following the recital. Ty Pigott is pastor of Woodland Hills Church.

Christ in the Passover will be presented by Kina Forman with Jews for Jesus, March 26, 10:45 a.m., at Wesson Church, Wesson. For more information, call (601) 643-5722.

Center Terrace Church, Canton, will present *Mona Faith* in concert, April 1 at 7 p.m. Special guest will be Gene Fant Sr. For more information, call (601) 859-4186.

Calvary Church, Cleveland, will celebrate its 50th anniversary on March 26 from 10 a.m.-12 noon. Fellowship will be held at 9:30 a.m. Robert E. Hill is pastor. For more information, call (662) 846-6184.

Parkhaven Church, Laurel, will present The Liberty Quartet of Meridian in concert on March 25 at 7 p.m. For more information, call (601) 425-2150.

Abide in Christ...

A Woman's Weekend

Featuring
Denise Glenn

Author of *Wisdom for Mothers*
and *Freedom for Mothers*

Presented by The Women's Enrichment
Ministry of Broadmoor Baptist Church

Friday, March 31 and Saturday, April 1, 2000

Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 31.
Tickets are \$25 per person. For more information, call (601) 898-2345.

All Activities will be held at Broadmoor Baptist Church,
1531 Highland Colony Parkway, Madison, Mississippi

Abide in Christ: A Woman's Weekend

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

I have enclosed \$ _____ for _____ women to attend.

Mail checks and registration forms to **Broadmoor Baptist Church, 1531 Highland Colony Parkway, Madison, MS 39110**

VINYL SIDING
NO DOWN PAYMENT - 100% FINANCING
EXPERT WORK • BIG SAVINGS
• ROOM ADDITIONS
• SUNROOM
• BATH-DEN
• KITCHEN
• CARPORT
SENIOR CITIZENS DISCOUNT
CALL 1-888-373-0054
PAY-less Home Improvements

CHURCH BUSES
#1 MANUFACTURER
COMPETITIVE PRICING
SOUTHEASTERN BUS CO.
CLINTON, MS
1-800-423-9826
1-601-924-1982
ALL SIZES
SALES AND RENTALS


What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

March 23, 2000

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.



**2000 DATES
FOR
CA SUMMER CAMP
CAMP GARAYWA**


JUNE 5-9
JUNE 12-16
JUNE 19-23
JUNE 26-30
JULY 3-7
JULY 10-14
JULY 17-21
JULY 24-28
(COMPLETED GRADES 3-6)

Cost: \$110 (includes registration fee, snacks, crafts, lodging, meals, and limited insurance)

SCHEDULE: Registered campers will check in between 9:30 and 11 a.m. each Monday. Campers are to remain until NOON on Friday.

NEW FOR 2000!! ACTEENS CAMP JULY 17 - 21

Registration begins April 1. For more information, contact the WMU Dept., MCBC, 1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800.



**Sunday
School
Teachers
Convention**

April 14-15, 2000

Schedule:


<p>Friday: 6:30-7:00 p.m. 7:00-8:30 p.m.</p> <p>Saturday: 9:00-10:15 a.m. 10:15-10:45 a.m. 10:45-noon</p>	<p>General Session Age group, SS Directors and pastor/ staff sessions. Age group sessions include preschool, children, youth, young adult (18-24), Middle Adult (25-54) and Senior Adult (55 and up)</p> <p>Age group, SS Directors and pastor/staff sessions Break Age group, SS Directors and pastor/staff sessions</p>
--	---

For more information, call the State Sunday School Department.
1-800-748-1651 or (601) 968-3800

The Monarch Colony proudly presents

"Butterflies are free and so are we!"

If the Son sets us free, we are free indeed John 8:36



You are cordially invited to flutter over to Camp Garaywa to attend the

Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Conference

April 10-11, 2000

For more information, please contact the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, MBCB
1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800



Singles Fellowship

Thursday, April 27

First Baptist Church, Greenwood

(Call 1-662-453-3075 for directions)

No admission fee

<p>7:00 p.m. 7:30</p>	<p>Finger foods and drinks Music and Gwen Williams, New Orleans humor, motivation and inspiration</p>
--	--

Sponsored by
Leflore Baptist Association, First Baptist Church, Greenwood and MBCB Discipleship and Family Ministry Department

Sunday School for a New Century

It's all about change

"Teaching for Spiritual Transformation"

Park Place Baptist Church
Pearl, Mississippi, April 14-15, 2000

Friday Night

6:30 General Session Worship Center
7:00 Age Group Curriculum Overview

Preschool	Room 100	Melba Carmona
Children	Room 225	Curtis Honts
Youth	Choir Room	Richard Barnes
Adults	Gym	Alan Raughton
General Officer	Activities Room	David Apple

Saturday Morning

9:00 - 12:00 Teaching for Spiritual Transformation

Preschool	Room 100	Melba Carmona
Children	Room 225	Curtis Honts
Youth	Choir Room	Richard Barnes
Young Adult	Room 120	Ronnie Falvey
Median Adult	Gym	Alan Raughton

Senior Adult	Room 129	Wayne Edwards
General Officers	Activities Room	David Apple
Pastors/Staff	Room 123	Larry Garner

There is no cost and no registration is necessary. Childcare will not be provided.

Any questions please call the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800 locally.

Preaching and Worship Conference

May 8-9, 2000
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada

Plenary Session Topics

- Preaching and Worship that Promotes Evangelism
- Preaching and Worship that Promotes Discipleship
- Preaching and Worship that Promotes Ministry
- Preaching and Worship that Promotes Fellowship
- Preaching and Worship that Promotes Worship

SCHEDULE

Monday, May 8

1:00 Registration
1:30 Welcome, Prayer and Housekeeping
1:40 Music
1:45 Session One
2:20 Music
2:30 Session Two
3:00 Break and Fellowship
3:30 Session Three
4:00 Transition to groups
4:05 Break-Out Groups I
5:00 Dinner on your own
6:30 Break-Out Groups II
7:30 Music
7:45 Session Four
8:15 Music
8:20 Session Five
9:00 Adjourn

Tuesday, May 9

8:30 Worship Experience
9:15 Session Six
10:00 Break
10:30 Breakout Groups III
11:35 Lunch at the Church (compliments CAPM)
Dialogue with Conference Leaders
Break-Out Groups IV
1:05 Transition
2:10 Music
2:15 Session Seven
3:00 Music
3:05 Session Eight
3:35 Adjourn... have a safe trip home!

Registration Form
Preaching and Worship Conference
May 8-9, 2000 • Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Church _____ Association _____
Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Mail to: Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.
Fax to: 601-714-7426 E-mail to: lgordon@mbch.org

Please pre-register by May 1, 2000, so that adequate materials can be provided.

For additional information, contact Keith Gordon at 601-292-3307.

worship.now



Greg Matte
Speaker

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

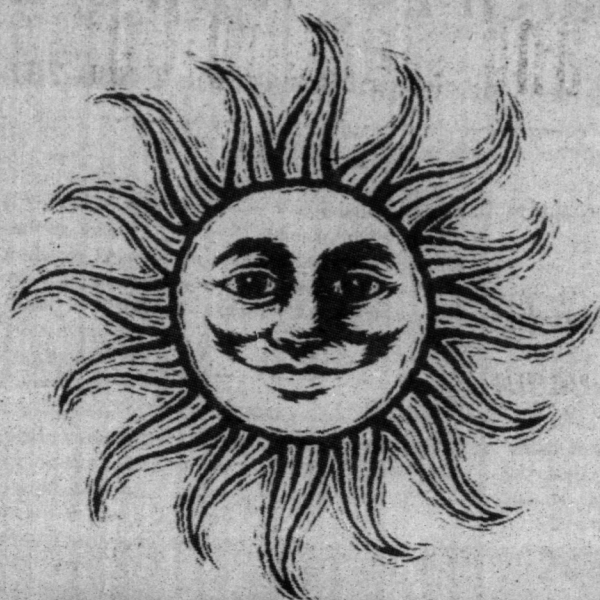
COME AND WORSHIP

BRING YOUR YOUTH



Chris Tomlin
Worship Leader

COMPLETE DETAILS WILL COME LATER



Orlando Bound!

**National WMU Annual Meeting
and Missions Conference**

Orlando, Fla.

June 9-13, 2000

Lodging will be at the Wyndham Orlando Resort. Saturday, June 10, you will be free to enjoy local Orlando attractions ON YOUR OWN. The WMU Annual Meeting begins on Sunday, June 11.

Training will be offered at an **ADDITIONAL COST OF \$35** per person. Participants **MUST** register for training to get the \$35 cost. Those registering at the door will pay \$55.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS MAY 16, 2000.
Cost per person (includes transportation and lodging)
(Please make sure you contact the person(s) you wish to room with before you list their names.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please check occupancy desired:

Single \$480

Double \$300 Roomate: _____

Triple \$240 Roomates: _____

Quad \$210 Roomates: _____

Total for lodging cost
(see above prices) \$ _____

plus training (optional) +35.00

Total enclosed \$ _____

Please send check to WMU, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205



Super Summer 2000

with Greg Matte
and Chris Davis

July 24-28

Mississippi College
& FBC, Clinton

Super Summer Mississippi is for the young person who is a mature and responsible Christian leader. Super Summer will not be for your entire group. Mississippi College and FBC, Clinton, are the hosts for Super Summer, July 24-28. Young people attending Super Summer Mississippi spend approximately 20 hours in evangelism and discipleship training. Quality youth leaders from our state lead our youth in study. Youth are trained in how to share their faith, how to have a quiet time, how to memorize scripture, how to find God's will for their lives, and more. They are also challenged and equipped to utilize their talents to penetrate their culture for Christ in a creative and effective way. Throughout Super Summer young people are encouraged to use the freedom they have in Christ to change the world. Don't miss out on an opportunity to be a part of Super Summer 2000!

Financial Requirements

The total cost for Super Summer during the registration period is \$150 per student and adult; amount includes food, housing in the school dormitory, materials, and T-shirt.

Guidelines for all SS candidates

1. Demonstrates leadership qualities and is a growing Christian.
2. Faithful involvement in worship, Sunday School, and Wednesday night youth activities.
3. Complete at least one level of a discipleship study (i.e. Survival Kit, DiscipleYouth, DiscipleNow...).
4. Memorized a minimum of 10 scripture verses relating to discipleship, evangelism, or a disciple study.
5. Share their personal testimony with the youth group.
6. Share the Gospel with at least one person this year.
7. Completed at least the 8th grade in 1999, but not yet in college.
8. Agree to attend all SS sessions.
9. Second year students: Express in 100 words or less your level of commitment to Christ and how you are involved in leadership in your church.
10. First year students: You must be involved in a "small group" study or accountability group prior to Super Summer.

REGISTRATION BEGINS APRIL 17. The cost for adults and students who register before May 15 is \$150. If they register between May 16 and June 15, the cost is \$160. After June 15, the cost is \$175.

Name _____

Church _____

Phone _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ e-mail _____

State/Zip _____ fax _____

Please send a registration packet.

Return this form to: **Discipleship & Family Ministry Dept.**
Miss. Baptist Convention Board
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Call the Discipleship & Family Ministry Department for more info: 601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

Pray this day for...

March 24 - April 6, 2000

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

Ministry and Prayer - "Ministry without prayer becomes work in the power of the flesh. Prayer without ministry is complacent Christianity."

The Praying Church Sourcebook by
Alvin J. Vander Griend with Edith Bajema

Three new couples arrived at Campinas, Sao Paulo, Brazil, in February to begin their first year of Portuguese study. Please pray for Larry and Maria Green, Ken and Suzanne Frederick, and Jack and Julia Wiley as they make adjustments to their new language and culture.

For (1) Reconciliation - Celebration Jesus 2000; Prentiss Association Building, Booneville (Strategic Initiatives Dept.) (2) Young Pastors Retreat; Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville (Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries).

Mike and Pam Jones, missionaries in eastern France, ask us to pray for Martine and Jean-Pierre. Pray for Jean-Pierre's salvation and for Martine's spiritual growth as Mike and Pam continue to counsel with them.

Pray for a believer, a former Israeli Arab Muslim that had a heart attack in January. He may have to have another angioplasty surgery. He has been described by others as being "overactive for God" and feels that he cannot neglect the growing number of people who want to study God's Word.

Hundreds of Hokkien students enrolled in five-year vocational or trade schools in Taiwan will make up a major part of the work force of the future. Ask God to raise up Christian witnesses and workers who will bring His Good News to these students.

For (1) Christian Performing Arts Festival/Youth Leadership Lab; FBC, Brandon (Discipleship & Family Ministry/Equipping Team) (2) Mother-Daughter Overnight; Camp Garaywa (WMU)

For (1) State Young Ringers Handbell Festival; Oak Forest BC, Jackson (Church Music) (2) Pray for several Baptist churches in Grenada, Winward Islands, that are struggling with doctrinal issues. Ask God to help the pastors and churches deal with these issues lovingly, but decisively.

*Please see prayer request listed below.

Members of the Guarayo People team of Bolivia, South America, have experienced ill health during the past several months. Pray that God will strengthen their bodies and give them stamina as they live and work with the Guarayos.

Pray for all Baptist representatives serving in the Ukraine. The law now requires that all visas must be renewed outside the country, requiring travel to another place. Ask for God's protection as they travel, and pray that they will receive visas good for several years.

For (1) State Bible Drills; FBC, Senatobia/FBC, Gulfport (Discipleship & Family Ministry) (2) Baptist Building At Home Days, 5th-7th.

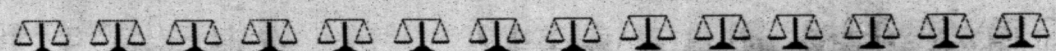
For (1) State Bible Drills; FBC, Greenwood/FBC, Brookhaven (Discipleship & Family Ministry) (2) Missionaries Mike and Pam Jones ask us to join them in praising God for their French brothers and sisters who encourage them by their faith and desire to see their country come to know Christ.

Poverty presents a great challenge for many of the rural congregations in China. Many promising young church leaders are forced to move to the cities to find work, abandoning struggling congregations. Pray that in the midst of physical suffering, Chinese Christians will remain faithful.

For (1) State Bible Drills; FBC, Tupelo/Calvary BC, Tupelo (Discipleship & Family Ministry) (2) Families of fishermen affected by the cyanide spill in Romania. Those who own fish markets now have no fish to sell. Ask God to bring the hope of Christ into an otherwise hopeless situation.

*Recently 50 Kabiye believers of Togo and Benin received training in how to share their faith. They live in a village surrounded by villages that have no church of any kind. In late January, the chief of one of those villages sent word to missionary John Crocker saying, "We hear of other villages that are learning of God and having churches, but in our village there is no one to tell us of this Jesus. Will you come?" Pray that these newly trained believers will be burdened to go out to these villages and share the gospel.

2000 LEGAL ISSUES AREA MEETINGS



SITES

APRIL 17, 2000

Calvary Baptist Church, Batesville
116 Vick Street

APRIL 18, 2000

Calvary Baptist Church, Meridian
3905 8th Street



"keeping your church
OUT of court"

PURPOSE: To provide information on how churches can carefully conduct their affairs under county, state and national laws and do so in a manner that provides some legal insulation from lawsuits.

TARGET AUDIENCE: church business administrators, church staff, personnel committee members, finance committee members, church trustees, legal professionals dealing with issues concerning liabilities of churches and non-profit organizations.

REGISTRATION FEE: \$10 per conferee (includes lunch). The 154-page notebook "Keeping Your Church Out of Court" will be available for \$25. You may e-mail your registration and pay at the door.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: William R. Korb, Jr., Sheila L. Korb, Michael V. Bourland, all attorneys with Bourland, Smith, Wall & Wenzel law firm in Fort Worth, Texas, and general counsel to Tarrant Baptist Association, Inc., and trust and estate counsel to Baylor University.

For more information contact the Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department:
601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

01-89 MR. BRYAN HOLYFIELD
c/o UECB of Russia
International Post Office
P O Box 171, Moscow
RUSSIA 101000
Parents: Michael & Patricia

10-81 MISS LAURA HEARN
Mississippi College, P O Box 5269
Clinton, MS 39058
Parents: James & Brenda
General Evangelism
SERVE IN WEST AFRICA

11-92 MR. DREW BRASWELL
Caixa Postal 61, 89.802-970 Chapeco, SC, BRAZIL
Parents: Larry & Alicia, Outreach Evangelism

15-96 Mr. Micah Peacock
6 Glenhill Crescent, Cochrane
Alberta, TOL OW3 CANADA
Parents: Kevin & Brenda, Theological Education

20-88 MR. JOHN MCCALL
105 Auburn Drive, Clinton, MS 39056
Parents: Dennis & Margaret, Agriculture

23-79 MR. ADAM GRAVES
SU Box 291550, Birmingham, AL 35229-1550
Parents: Edgar & Marilyn, General Evangelism
SERVE IN WESTERN SOUTH AMERICA

24-91 MISS LAURA PURL
Baptist Mission, PMB 5113, Ibadan, 040 State
NIGERIA
Parents: John & Amy, Financial Administration

25-88 MR. PHILIP M. HEARN
22361 Hwy. 436, Bogalusa, LA 70427
Parents: James & Brenda, General Evangelism
SERVE IN WEST AFRICA

Take a moment to send a card to encourage
the children of our missionaries!

HOUSE TOPS.

BF&M study report to be released in May

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Seeking to give constituents enough time to "familiarize themselves" with their report, the Baptist Faith & Message (BF&M) study committee plans to release its report to Southern Baptists in May.

Adrian Rogers, pastor of historic Bellevue Church in metro Memphis, Tenn., and chairman of the BF&M committee, told Baptist Press he anticipates "rank and file of the Southern Baptist family will be very happy with this document."

Rogers declined to discuss the committee's progress or findings since deliberations are continuing.

The committee met March 2-3 at the SBC building in Nashville, Tenn., the second meeting of the 15-member group appointed by SBC President Paige Patterson last August. Rogers said the committee will meet one more time, in the spring, and

again just before the annual meeting of the SBC in Orlando, Fla., in June. The committee's findings will be presented to the SBC annual meeting for a vote by messengers.

"It is a very good committee, with harmony, progress," Rogers said. "The committee is enthusiastic and anticipates the convention will applaud and appreciate what we have done. We're not finished yet and it would be premature and inappropriate to give details [at this time] since it is a work in progress."

Rogers said the May release date for the committee's report will give "constituents enough time to familiarize themselves with the report and then give an intelligent reaction at the convention."

Authorized by the 1999 annual meeting of the SBC in Atlanta, in a 2,327-1,063 vote, the committee was given instructions to review the document and report back in 2000.

The BF&M, originally adopted in 1925

and revised in 1963, had its first addition in 1998 at the Salt Lake City annual meeting when a family/marriage article was adopted. Although Southern Baptists have no creed, the BF&M has generally been seen as an objective statement of the beliefs of the nation's largest evangelical group.

Patterson, president of Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., said the committee is represented by members from 11 different states. Earlier, Patterson said he did "not anticipate even beginning to approximate a rewrite of the BF&M."

"However, the messenger making the motion believes, and I concur, that every 30 years or so we need to take a look at the statement of faith, not because our faith changes, but because the issues of the day usually dictate some minor revisions to remove ambiguities or address specific issues," Patterson said.

LOTTIE MOON GOALS REACHED

Fellowship Church, Choctaw Association, exceeded its goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO) of \$1,525 by giving \$1,665.87.

Wayside Church, Vicksburg, set a goal of \$1,200 for LMCO and received a total of \$1,361. Larry W. Haggard is pastor.

Slayden Church, Slayden, met and exceeded its LMCO goal of \$10,000 during the month of December.

The Unfinished Task was the theme for the LMCO emphasis held at First Church, Hazlehurst, Dec. 5. Lloyd Luncford, BSU director at the University of Southern Mississippi and former International Mission Board missionary to Taiwan, shared several of his mission field experiences. The service began with the parade of flags by the RAs. John McBride, director of missions for Cophia Association, gave a report on mission work in Venezuela. The GAs provided

a time line drama on the life of Lottie Moon. Both the RAs and GAs held a bike-a-thon and raised \$612 for LMCO. Also, the GAs collected \$137.12. The overall total given was \$4,641.56. Robert M. Hanvey is pastor. GAs pictured are Laura Higdon;

Rebecca Davidson; Hannah Jordan; Cathryn Cartwright; Julie Hankins; Sarah Brown, Virginia Little, and Brenda Bell, WMU director. RAs pictured (bottom row) are Luke Henderson, Justin Chapman, Will Davis, Bryan Davidson,

Shaun Pillai, Kaleb Vanlandingham; (second row) Bryce Guess, Reece Hankins, Steven Bozeman, Trey Fischer; (back row) Joshua Scruggs, Alex Guess, Daniel Henderson, Jake Guess, Lucas DeLariva, and Eric Walker.



RAs of First Church, Hazlehurst



GAs of First Church, Hazlehurst

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

The Mississippi College School of Nursing has received notification that its baccalaureate program in nursing continues to be accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission. This action grants accreditation for eight years, which is the maximum amount awarded by the Commission.

The Music Department of Mississippi College (MC) announces the establishment of the Bethea/Claxton Prize. The first annual vocal competition for MC vocal performance majors will be held in Swor Auditorium on March 27 at 8 p.m. Gerald Claxton, MC faculty, and Ann Bethea have established this competition, which awards a \$2,000 cash prize.

Blue Mountain College (BMC), Blue Mountain, will host the Chattanooga Boys Choir in a special performance on March 24 at 8 p.m. The concert will be

held in Garrett Auditorium, which is on the BMC campus. "The Chattanooga Boys Choir has become known as America's most versatile and entertaining boys choir. The concert will include the timeless compositions of the great masters, attractively choreographed performances of the music of Broadway, spirituals, and of course their theme song 'The Chattanooga Choo-Choo,'" said Sue Ann Ethridge of BMC. Due to a generous gift to the college there is no admission charge. For further information, call BMC at (601) 685-4771.

LIFEWAY'S EXCLUSIVE BUS SOURCE

Carpenter Bus Sales, Inc.

328 Southgate Court, Brentwood, TN 37027

Call Today

(800) 370-6180



Available in 20' to 37' models
(12 to 47 passengers, New & Used)

- LifeWay Discount
 - 15 passenger vans
 - We buy used buses
- www.carpenterbus.com

Since 1953

"We specialize in church buses"

MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

SOCIETY HILL BAPTIST CHURCH seeks bi-vocational or student youth minister. Send resume to: Jim Langston, Rt 1 Box 69B, Oakvale, MS 39656, call 601-792-8119 or fax 601-792-4709.

INTERIM PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER needed at the First Baptist Church of Lyman, Gulfport, MS. Please send resume to FBC Lyman, 14321 Old Highway 49, Gulfport, MS 39503, or call 228-832-2159.

PIANIST AND/OR ORGANIST NEEDED for growing church in Reservoir area. Call 601-924-0569 or 829-1004 for more information.

PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Send resume to: Music Search Committee, c/o Eastwood Baptist Church, P.O. Box 466, Indianola, MS 38751. Call 601-887-4404.

Jesus Christ
Requests the Honor
of Your Presence
in Heaven!

YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

NAMES IN THE NEWS



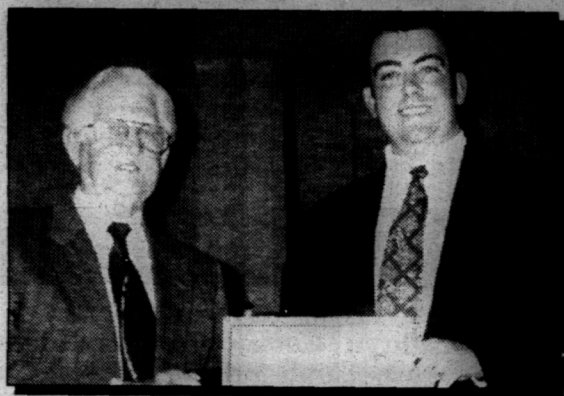
Central Church, Lincoln Association

Central Church, Lincoln Association, on Oct. 24, 1999, licensed Ryan Thurman to the ministry. He will graduate in May from Copiah-Lincoln Community College and plans to attend William Carey College in the fall. Pictured (from left) are Thurman and Clay Nash, minister to students at Central Church.



Bowman and Knight

Trinity Church, Vicksburg, licensed Jeremy Peagler to the ministry, on Jan. 9. A student at Mississippi College, Peagler is minister to youth at Trinity Church. Pictured with Peagler is Mickey Bounds, pastor of Trinity Church.



Trinity Church, Vicksburg

Danny Knight, interim youth minister at Star Church, Star, and a student at New Orleans Seminary, was ordained to the ministry at Star Church on Feb. 20. Pictured are Vic Bowman, pastor (left), and Danny Knight.



Calvary Church, Petal, licensed Miller Eichelberger to the ministry on Feb. 13. Pictured (from left) are David Shofner, pastor; Eichelberger; and Bill Cooley, chairman of deacons.

Booksignings to be held around Miss.

Ann M. Hopper of Pass Christian, a former member of First Church, Jackson, will sign her recently-published book of religious poetry, *Get a Life: God's Word Is Pure Poetry*, on March 25 from 1-2 p.m. at Lamuria Bookstore in Jackson; on March 27 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Gumtree Bookstore in Tupelo; and on March 28 from 5-6 p.m. at Square Books in Oxford. For more information, contact Hopper at (228) 452-9918. E-mail: ahopper@bellsouth.net.

Moak's Creek (Lincoln): March 24-26; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.; Clarence Young, Harmony Church, Jackson, guest evangelist; Philip Alford, McComb, music; covered dish lunch, noon; followed by afternoon services, Billy J. Howse, pastor.

Bethel, Monticello: Spiritual renewal services; April 2, 9 a.m., Les Hughes, Clinton, speaker; April 2, 6 p.m., Hal Kitchings, Clinton, speaker; April 3, 7 p.m., Dean Register, Hattiesburg, speaker; April 10, 7 p.m., Argile Smith, New Orleans Seminary, speaker; April 17, 7 p.m., Jim Futral, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, speaker; April 24, 7 p.m., Chuck Kelley, New Orleans Seminary, speaker; Tim Morrison, Monticello, music; Bill Miller, pastor.

Parkway, Houston: March 26-29; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Don Boone, Louisville, evangelist; R.L. and Beth Sigrest, Yazoo City, music; Gregg Thomas, pastor.

D'LO (Simpson): April 9-12; services, 7 p.m.; Matt Buckles, director, Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Jeff Sanders, D'LO Church, music; Robert Sones, pastor.

Calvary, Natchez: April 7-9; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; fellowship meal, Sunday night; Scott McDowell, Rhinehart, La., chalk art evangelist; Brenda Roberts, music; Mike Harrigill, pastor.

Magee's Creek, Jayess (Walthall): March 24-26; Fri., and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Randall Creel, Meridian, evangelist; Tim King, McComb, music; Jimmy T. Smith Jr., pastor.

Bethel, Columbus: April 9-12; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Al Gaspard, Houston, evangelist; Archie Chesser, music; Walter Butler, pastor.

Providence, Jayess (Lawrence): March 26-29; Sun.,

10:50 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Butch Brown, Lillian, Ala., evangelist; Steve Walker, Pinola, music; Steve Smith, pastor.

First, Lauderdale: March 26-29; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; weekdays, 7 p.m.; Nick Holden, evangelist; Jay Parker, music.

Lighthouse, Richland: March 26-29; Sun., men's prayer breakfast at 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m., and followed by potluck supper; Mon.-Wed. 7 p.m.; Greg Clemts, Southside Church, Vicksburg, evangelist; Sammy J. McDonald, pastor. A note burning will be held at the end of the service on Sunday for the church debt.

REVIVAL DATES

We can help you raise money
for your building program!

Challenge to Build has a 30-year history of assisting Mississippi Baptist churches reach a new level of giving, and has raised \$32,308,346 from 1990-2000.

Your church CAN reach its goal:

- Debt Retirement
- New Worship Center
- Family Life Center
- Educational Buildings
- Other Projects

A cost shared program offered by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Stewardship Department
Contact Jerry Mixon, Stewardship Director, 601-292-3347 or 1-800-748-1651 ext. 347

**Challenge
to Build**

CLASSIFIED ADS

RATE: 60 cents per word, \$6 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads. ONLY WRITTEN ADS ACCEPTED.

WE SPECIALIZE IN VANS Featuring 6 to 15 passenger vans, customized and panel vans. Daily and weekly rates. Auto & Truck Rental, Jackson (601) 948-3391. Since 1965.

CFI — PEWS, NEW & used. Baptistries, steeples, & stained glass, MS & ALA. 1-800-830-0583.

MIN OF MUSIC new to Jackson seeks work. FT/PT/supply/revivals. Eight years experience. Excellent references. Call 601-206-1163.

USED CHURCH PEWS. Contact Bethel Baptist Church, 601-587-4661.

CUSTOM STAINED GLASS windows for churches and homes. Stained Glassworks, Inc. 1-800-605-2970.

A SHELTER FOR ABUSED CHILDREN needs a live-in couple for a 21 day shift to parent up to 12 children. Support staff and benefits. Send resume to: Sunshine Shelter, 409 N. Union Street, Natchez, MS 39121.

FOR SALE: 2 MCI late model 9's; automatic, great coaches, well maintained, complete with TV and VCR equipment. Contact Towana Wright or Tillman Wright at 601-947-8783.

Are your seniors tired of crawling over the HUMP? The solution is a 15-passenger van with an aisle, raised roof & electric step.



Call Tri-State Van & Bus Today! 1-800-330-3622
BUSES! VANS! PEOPLE MOVERS!
www.tri-statevanbus.com

Missionary helps spread Gospel in Miami

MIAMI - In a residential neighborhood in the middle of Hialeah, Iglesia Bautista Maranatha struggles to stay ahead. High property values make relocation prohibitive, code restrictions block expansion, and zoning regulations forbid even a church sign. In fact, the church continues to struggle over a paved parking area that city officials want removed.

Through it all, however, North American Mission Board missionary David Lema has been there — offering advice, encouragement, and even serving as a liaison with city officials in the church's attempt to overcome the often frustrating barriers of language and culture. It is the sort of thing he does regularly as director of Hispanic and International Ministries for the Miami Baptist Association.

"I am an interface," said Lema, borrowing a term from his early days as a computer science student in college. "I can relate from one culture to another, and I can make things more open for communications. I can relate thought patterns that do not translate sometimes from one culture to another."

Lema's abilities as a multicultural facilitator stem from his diverse background.

His parents were exiled from his native Cuba when Lema was six because of his father's Christian beliefs — decidedly at odds with the atheist communist government of the 1960s.

First they went to Spain, then New York City, and finally to New Orleans, where his father became a Southern Baptist home missionary. After a brief period of seeking his own way, Lema too obeyed a call to ministry, serving as a pastor in Louisiana and Texas before accepting the pastorate of West Hialeah Baptist Church in 1989.

The confirmation of his call to begin work throughout the association was powerful. By 1996 the ministry in Hialeah was booming, and he felt no particular urgency to join the association's staff when he was first contacted in 1996. He ultimately decided that if he was going to leave, his church was going to have to ask him to do so.

The next Sunday, one of the church's prayer warriors who knew nothing about the decision told him something that astounded him.

"She looked at me straight in the eye, and she said, 'your days in this church are over ... God has something else in store for

you," Lema related. The church council added further confirmation with an expression of their love and support, and he left with their blessing.

With that mandate, Lema rallied his fellow Hispanic pastors and began using those relationships to further the work throughout the association.

His mission field of Miami is about 55% Hispanic, most of them Cuban. Much of the ministry in Miami also requires a thorough understanding of what Lema calls the "refugee mindset." They're not after money, or even the American dream. They are simply looking for security.

At a practical level, Lema's duties are primarily to help start churches and to serve as a support and encouragement to the pastors. In the North American Mission Board's parlance, he is a catalytic missionary — a term he believes describes his church-planting role well.

"We've had several churches that have come from an independent background, and they feel that they do not want to function alone anymore," he said, noting he has helped about 10 churches get started each year since he began.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

THANKS, MISS. BAPTISTS

Editor:

Thank you Mississippi Baptists. After many years of promoting the "suit project" of the Brotherhood Department, I have become a recipient. Three and one half years ago I moved from Mississippi to pastor in Vermont.

It is a blessing to have the new suit and know that other believers are thinking, praying, and willing to give of their resources for you. It is a wonderful expression of mission support and prayer.

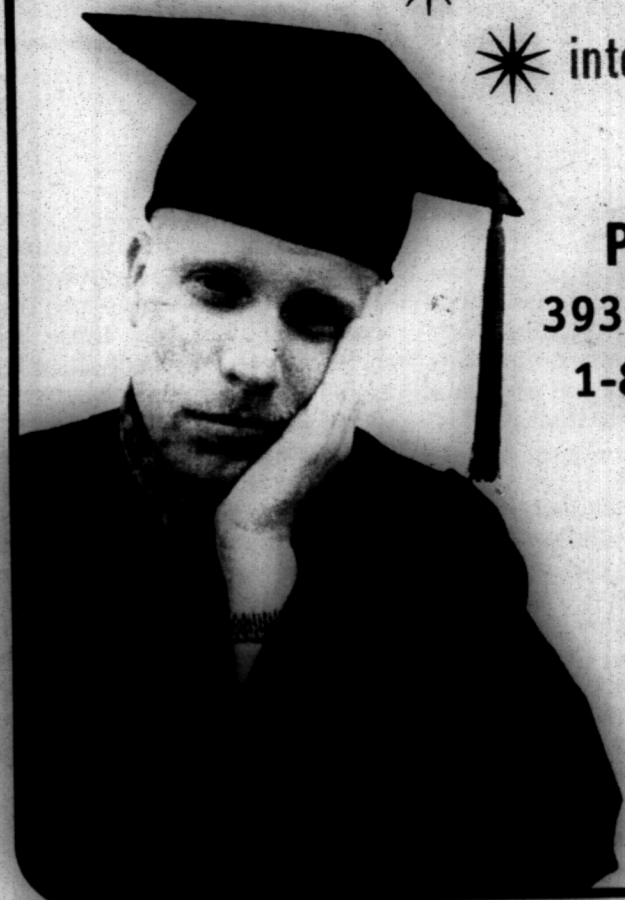
When I wear that suit I feel the prayers of Mississippi Baptists encouraging me on in the work of the Lord. Thanks!

Jerry W. Smith, pastor
The Baptist Fellowship
Randolph, VT

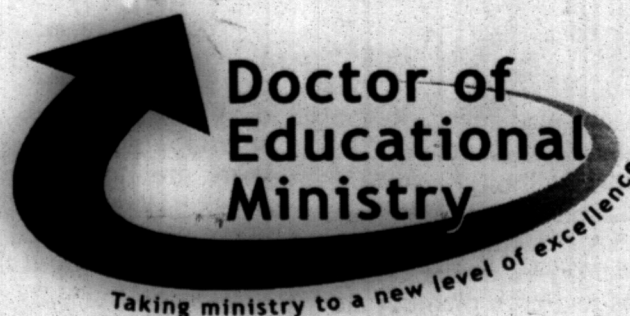
...but I didn't want an M.Div.

To get the new ATS-Approved Doctor of Educational Ministry at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, you don't need one.

- * prerequisite MACE or MRE without MDiv leveling work
- * minimal campus time, so you don't have to neglect your ministry
- * multiple sites - Atlanta, Graceville, New Orleans, Orlando
- * multiple specializations to meet your needs
- * internet, interactive video, and other class formats



For more information, contact the
Professional Doctoral Degrees Office
3939 Gentilly Boulevard • New Orleans, LA 70126
1-800-NOBTS-01, ext. 3720 • DMin@nobts.edu



Young family follows God's call to Angola

LISBON, Portugal (BP) — Iona McHaney loves to play. At her preschool in Lisbon, Portugal, she fits in quite nicely with the other 4-year-olds who play alongside her — so nicely, in fact, that it's sometimes hard to believe she isn't Portuguese. It's even harder to imagine that soon

she and her family will be missionaries in Angola, a battle-scarred country in southern Africa recently identified as the worst place in the world for children.

Iona — whose name comes from a Scottish isle — and her two older sisters, Megan and Sarah, were born in Scotland. Although parents Scot and Leslie McHaney are American, the entire family speaks with a Scottish accent.

McHaney served as a journeyman and then pastor of Crieff Church in Scotland for a total of 12 years before accepting a career missionary assignment with the International Mission Board (IMB) in July 1998.

Moving to Portugal to prepare for missionary service in Angola forced the family to adjust to a different country and culture. But the move to Angola after language study will demand all the flexibility and faith the family can muster.

War has ravaged Angola for almost four decades. The conflict began when Angola



IN HIS HANDS — Iona McHaney (center) plays with friends at her preschool in Loures, Portugal, as her parents prepare for missionary service in the battle-scarred country of Angola. (BP photo by Grace Robinette)

asserted its independence from Portugal in 1961. The war for independence lasted until 1975, when Portugal — emptied of finances and full of its own political turmoil — relinquished power.

Nearly a quarter century later, the battle continues. The prolonged conflict has taken its toll on the Angolan people. Attempts at peace have accomplished little. Millions are dead and hundreds of thousands of civilians still flee villages under attack.

The McHaney family is so confident they don't flinch when they hear news about the bleak state of affairs in Angola.

"We have obvious concerns for our children," McHaney says, "but there are advantages as well. They will grow up knowing there are people who need the gospel. They will see how Jesus does change lives, and they will realize that the little they do in faith can make a big difference in our world."



FOLLOWING JESUS — The McHaney family enjoys a few moments of togetherness after dinner. As they contemplate living in Angola, McHaney says: "We are in the nail-scarred hands of Christ. And come what may, we do not want to be anywhere else." (BP photo by Grace Robinette)

Missionary duo starting new churches in Toronto

TORONTO, Ontario (BP) — Under an overcast Toronto sky, members of Dixie Church begin to trickle into a small building attached to an apartment high-rise, much like they have for 21 years.

Though the makeup of the congregation has changed several times, it remains a strong witness to the life-changing power of Christ in this multi-ethnic Canadian community. In this case, the congregation — the first Southern Baptist church started in Ontario — meets on an eight-inch concrete slab poured over a former indoor swimming pool.

On this Sunday morning 15 nationalities join together to study the Bible. It's not a fancy

building, but it serves its purpose well. In fact, the building testifies to the tenacity and creativity of Canadian Southern Baptists to plant churches whenever a door opens — or, in this case, when a swimming pool closes.

Helping Dixie in its church-planting efforts — and being a catalyst among 20 other churches and missions scattered across the city of Toronto and province of Ontario — are North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionaries Barry and LaWanda Bonney. Barry serves as a church planter/catalyst. LaWanda assists Barry by leading teacher workshops in the churches and in her role as WMU director for Ontario.

It is a ministry built on teamwork. Though he concentrates his ministry in Toronto, Barry travels the expansive province as he helps churches locate sites for new home Bible studies or missions. LaWanda's upbringing as a missionary kid in Mexico and Central America opens doors in the Spanish-speaking community, and the children's subtle witness among their peers helps intro-

duce others to Bible stories about Jesus.

"One of our greatest struggles is not being able to be involved in one church," Barry says. "We relate in some way to 20 congregations, double what was here when we came here in 1996. The work is growing, but it causes us to be spread even more thin."

The Bonneys are the only NAMB missionaries in the province, which includes the nation's capital city of Ottawa. Their task is daunting at times.

"It's really a God-sized project," LaWanda says.



LAYING THE FOUNDATION — Barry Bonney looks over a map of Oakville, Ontario, with International Mission Board missionary Randy Galloway, a Baptist Student Ministries director in the city. The two are part of a team laying the foundation for a new church plant in the Canadian city. Bonney serves as a church planter/catalyst for the North American Mission Board and is based in Toronto. (BP photo by Christine Smith)



Ron Mower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

LifeAnswers

I admit that I'm an emotional wreck from my ongoing divorce, but I think my pastor made a pass at me during counseling. How can I be sure and what do I do if I'm right?

It's easy to be confused when emotions are frayed. You are vulnerable, and normal messages may be getting mixed up with your fears and hurts. When people are in a therapeutic relationship, a closeness develops as private issues are shared. This is a real danger if there are no checks and balances (accountability to a licensing board, etc.). Talk with a good friend about this and go

together to the pastor. Once you confront the pastor, if there is repentance then you can be safe. If there is defensiveness you should move on. Deal with the issue now rather than letting it eat away at you for years and then having to deal with it

My 12-year old daughter is beginning to dress and act like the sex-crazed sluts that dominate prime-time television. How can I turn her around before it's too late?

Make a date with your daughter, pop some popcorn, and watch the shows she watches. Note her reactions to

the objectionable parts, and talk with her about the values displayed in the program. She is very impressionable and our world tells her that these are the things she must do in order to be accepted and approved. Our job as parents with "emerging adults" is to impress upon them the importance of purity, holiness, righteousness, and obedience. Make sure people with your values (and in reality the values she also wants) surround her; she will soon realize "Everybody else is doing it," is a lie! As her father, your role is crucial in helping her understand the thinking of the opposite sex.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

LIFE AND WORK

What about Christ's return

Revelation 19:1-6, 11-16, 19-21

By Michael Jones

Almost three months have come and gone from the breaking of the new millennium. For many months before, the hottest topic was what was to come when the new millennium arrived. Many people predicted and even tried to prepare for the return of Christ. Now, almost three months past, Christ still has not returned. What does this mean? Some have been dismayed that Christ did not return. Some non-Christians have undoubtedly become more skeptical of Christ's return and skept-

tics have fallen deeper into their unbelief that

Christ will return. What these people do not remember or understand is the emphasis Jesus put on the uncertainty of the time of his return. Jesus was clear: the fact of his return was certain, only the human understanding of time was uncertain. Our lesson today explores the certainty that he will return and what will happen at this time.

Christ will claim his people (vv. 6-9). HALLELUJAH! This will be the call to come and rejoice, "for the wedding of the Lamb has come." The bride's



Jones

clothing has been made ready and it represents the "righteous acts of the saints."

Jesus Christ, the Lamb, is the groom. The bride, of course, is the church. It will be a day of rejoicing for us, the bride, because it will be at this time that God's purpose for us will be fulfilled. The application for our life now is to live victoriously. How? By performing "righteous acts" to prepare ourselves for the Lamb.

Christ will conquer the world (vv. 11-16). KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. This is the title which, John says, will be written on Christ's robe and on his thigh and it says it all. Warren Wiersbee says that this is Christ's victorious name and it brings to mind Daniel 2:47 and Deuteronomy 10:17. No matter what Satan has done, no matter what rulers are ruling at the

time, Jesus is still "King of Kings and Lord of Lords," and he will conquer all that is his. He will come as Conqueror and King and will rule. This should encourage believers.

Christ will crush the Antichrist (vv. 19-21). The "beast" (Antichrist) and the "kings of the earth," along with their armies, will stand and prepare to fight Christ. But look what happens and how fast it happens. The Antichrist and the false prophet are captured and immediately thrown into the "fiery lake." The remainder are killed with the sword that comes from Christ's mouth.

The Antichrist is not just defeated, he is crushed, once and for all, and all of his armies are crushed. As believers we need to recognize that although the power of evil may seem overwhelming and victorious, Christ will win. The judgment of those who oppose him is cer-

tain. Christ will be victorious.

Also, the return of Christ is certain. For believers, only the time of his return is uncertain. What can we learn today from knowing Christ will return and knowing he will come to claim his people, conquer the world, and crush the Antichrist? Our lesson is one of encouragement. At times we seem to lose hope in the face of evil and feel there is no use staying the course. Evil has taken over the world and has won. The truth of the matter is, which encourages us, evil has not won. Whether it is the evil we face daily in the world at large or the disappointments and evil we face daily with others, God has already won the battle and we are victors along side him. God is the champion. He is now and forever will be, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS!

Jones is associate pastor/youth minister at Monticello Church, Monticello.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Obedying the Lord fully

Joshua 11:14-23

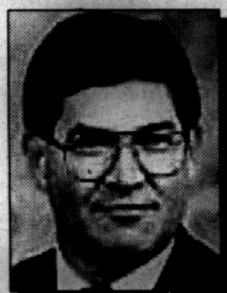
By Keith Smyser

When all else fails, follow the instructions! Have you ever been guilty of starting a project and later coming back to the instructions you should have followed in the first place? Now, you follow the instructions but accidentally leave out a crucial step. If the instructions provided are not followed completely, you are unable to finish the project properly.

The people of Israel were facing a daunting task. Joshua and the people were to obey the Lord's directions in order to conquer the land God was to give them. The people in Joshua's day and believers today must commit themselves to obey fully all of the

Lord's commands. Why is obeying every detail important?

Obey in every detail (vv. 14-18). God had already done amazing things to enable the people of Israel to conquer much of Northern Canaan. The Lord promised Joshua the victory (10:8). A series of miraculous events took place: first, God threw the enemy into confusion (10:10); second, the Lord hurled large hailstones from the sky (10:11); third, Joshua needed more time to finish the battle so God made the sun and moon to stand still (10:12-14); and fourth, the story concludes with the fact that the Lord fought for Israel (10:42).



Smyser

Joshua and the people of Israel are about to face a mighty army with horses and chariots (11:4). God assured Joshua of victory and gave specific instructions including not leaving any survivors. God was judging the inhabitants of Canaan for their sin (Lev. 18:24-25). Commentator Warren Wiersbe explains, "God

assured them before the battle (11:6), fights for them during the battle (11:8), and commands them after the battle (11:9, 15). How we follow orders after the victory is as important as what we do before the battle begins."

Joshua obeyed God in every detail (11:15). When God gives us directions today in Scripture, do we obey every detail? Why do some people choose what portions of scripture they will obey?

Obey to accomplish God's purposes (vv. 19-20). Israel did not defeat the people living in

Gibeon. The Gibeonites deceived the Israelites (chapter 9) and were protected by their peace treaty. Israel now controlled most of the region.

Verse 20 sounds unusual but is similar to Exodus 4:21 when scripture indicates that God hardened Pharaoh's heart. God is sovereign and is working from his perspective. Many years prior to this time God had promised the land to Abraham. God had given the inhabitants time to repent but they refused (Gen. 15:16). God was working in history and using the people of Israel as his instruments to accomplish what he promised.

As we are obedient to God's directives, he can use us to accomplish his purposes. Can you recall a time when God used you as his instrument?

Obey until the task is complete (vv. 21-23). We are told in 11:18 that war was waged for a long time. According to many Biblical scholars, approximately five years had passed since the

death of Moses until the end of this chapter. The Lord enabled Joshua with his power to drive the frightening enemy called the Anakites (see Num. 13:33; Deut. 9:2) from most of Israel's territory.

One theme that runs throughout Joshua appears here in the end of Joshua 11. The theme emphasizes that work was still to be done (Anakites in three regions). God promised the land to Israel and the people would work to complete the task. We see both divine sovereignty and human responsibility at work in these scriptures. God had promised the land to the people of Israel. (Joshua: Courage for the Future) War was used as an instrument to cleanse the land of evil and pagan influences. Once accomplished the land was given rest from war for a time.

What task(s) has the Lord given you that you need to see through to completion?

Smyser is associate pastor of First Church, Starkville.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Return to harmony

1 Corinthians 5:1-6:11

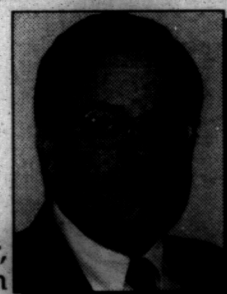
By Neel Grantham

To return to harmony we must first come to the realization there may be a lack of true harmony. We have seen already how selfish pride and a lack of love can disrupt harmony. Another problem is open sin in the lives of our members that has not been redemptively confronted and dealt with properly. The central truth for this week's lesson is that harmony is enhanced when a church redemptively disciplines its members.

Redemptive discipline (5:1-5). Paul uses the sin of incest to make his case for discipline in the church. We can't be blinded into thinking this is the only sin deserving discipline. In v. 11

list others. However, Paul felt the church should have already addressed this situation. Instead, they ignored it and gave some kind of appearance that they were proud in this situation.

We are not much different if we ignore immorality by others within the church today. What is called for is grieving and mourning, not looking the other way. While it may seem harsh, Paul says to the church at Corinth to put the wicked person out of the fellowship. It is done in the presence of the gathered assembly for the sake of Christ and the church. Paul instructed Timothy that those who sin against the elders of the church should be



Grantham

rebuked publicly, "that others also may fear" (1 Timothy 5:20). A healthy fear of God is missing in many believers' lives and in many churches. Perhaps if we are not practicing any kind of church discipline now, we should study the matter more diligently.

Restorative discipline (5:6-8). One reason for having a firm stance in this matter is that it can affect the whole church. Paul uses the leaven and dough analogy to show how a little tolerance of a sin of this nature can spread throughout the church. You have heard the old excuse, "well so-and-so is doing it, why can't I?"

The answer to that question deals with who we are in Christ, our Passover Lamb. The Jews, after killing the Passover lamb, kept the feast of unleavened bread for seven days. As believers we are to keep the

feast of unleavened bread all the days of our lives. We are new creations and dead to sin. We must purge all the old leaven from our lives. That leaven is malice and wickedness. The bread without the leaven is bread of sincerity and truth.

This, then, is restorative discipline, and it serves as a warning to the entire church that there is no place for open, flagrant sin. When carried out properly, the guilty can be restored and others reminded of who they are in Christ.

Restrictive discipline (5:9-13). Paul has instructed the church not to associate with those who called themselves a brother yet participates in the sins listed in verse 11. The unbelievers of the world do not fall under the same warning. While we are not to participate in the sinful activities of the world, we are still in the world. We still live around, work with, and associate with sinners. We

can't impose our standards on non-believers. We don't exercise discipline over them either. In verse 13 Paul reminds us that God will judge those outside the church. We should take care of business in the church.

Striving for the loving, caring church fellowship that demonstrates true harmony does require redemptive discipline. Before the matter is brought to the public gathering of the church, there should be loving and gentle attempts made to those who have strayed. Galatians 6:1 and Matthew 18:15-17 gives us some guidelines to follow. Much prayer should precede any action. Motives must be completely pure. Pride must be completely absent. Paul suggested in 5:2 there should be mourning and grieving over the guilty one. That should be our attitude as well. Then we can be used to restore.

Grantham is pastor of Pineview Church, Clinton.

Church's 'steeple of light' inspires, annoys

ST. CHARLES, Mo. (BP) — First Church of Harvester in St. Charles, Mo., is letting its light shine, stirring varying reactions.

Since last spring, three 4,000-watt white beams have shot into the sky, merging at the top as "steeple of light."

"It's like a spire that any church would have to call attention to the fact that this is a house of God — except that ours is a light," said Ron Beckner, First Church's associate pastor for education. "We use it as a representation of the Trinity — one beam each for the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who are one in God."

The church received approval from the planning commission of the local jurisdiction, the city of St. Peters, and from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) before installing the lights on the roof of its

new atrium. Some neighbors nevertheless have complained that the light interferes with their view of the stars, while from Beckner's view, it goes into the sky in one spot and doesn't block the stars.

The light shines from dusk to midnight four nights a week.

"We operate it on the nights there are major activities at the church," Beckner said. The church has worship services on Sunday, Wednesday, and Saturday evenings, and on Fridays youth or other activities are usually held in the church. The church also received city permission to utilize its lights nightly during the Christmas season.

Apart from the complaints, Beckner said, "... the overwhelming response has been positive. It's become a point of identification for us in the community."

"People say to us, 'You go to the church with the light.' Or they pull into our parking lot just look at the light ..."

Some area residents, however, have taken their complaints to city officials. "We've received about five to 10 complaints," St. Peters director of planning and development Julie Powers said. "We've also received calls from people who say it's a good thing."

Powers sent a letter to the church asking for the light to be restricted to two nights a

week. "The church responded saying they will continue to do what they originally said," she said, "and that is operate it on the nights of services."

Said Beckner, "We are following our agreements with the city and the FAA, but if, for example, there's a reason not to have the light on so people can see a meteor shower or an eclipse, then we'd be happy to turn it off."

Beckner, in a letter to the editor following a local newspaper's article about the steeple of light, recounted that each beam of light is a maximum of 23 inches wide, and where they converge into a single beam the maximum width is 6 feet.

"Because of the minimal (2%) beam divergence of each light, there is very little cloud to ground reflectivity," Beckner wrote. "In contrast, parking lot lights may have, by design, a cloud to ground reflection area of several hundred feet."

The idea for a steeple of light "was originally conceived by the famous architect, Frank Lloyd Wright," Beckner wrote. The church's specific design was patterned after a similar light display by a Kansas City, Mo., church, he told Baptist Press.

Inquiries about the steeple of light may be addressed to Beckner at the church, (636) 447-4903, or via the church's Internet site, www.fbch.com.



STEEPLE OF LIGHT — First Baptist Church of Harvester in St. Charles, Mo., is letting its light shine, stirring varying reactions. (Photograph By First Baptist Church of Harvester Website)

Promise sets orphan on road to Christian service

Copyright 2000, Richmond Times-Dispatch. Used with permission.

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — It was 1972. The Vietnam War was in full swing. A mother, leading her 4-year-old son by the hand, turned him over to strangers at a Cam Ranh Bay orphanage. The child cried as his mom walked away.

He never would see her again but he would find a friend, mentor, protector and, ultimately, father in the orphanage.

That little boy, Ty Cope, now 31, is the founding pastor of RiverSouth Community Church, which meets at Huguenot Road Church in Richmond, Va. His journey from orphan to Baptist minister is a lesson in faith and devotion.

It was 1973. John Cope was leaving Vietnam for the second time. He had left the first time after being discharged from the Air Force. But he was intent on returning to help the Vietnamese people.

"We had a lot of Vietnamese help on the base," John Cope said. "They were wonderful people. When I left [the first time], I knew I had to give back to those people."

He believes God led him to the orphanage where he met Ty. But he's not sure why the two hit it off so quickly.

"Ty was a little mischievous child," John Cope said in a telephone interview from his Frederick, Okla., home. "There was a [preschool] at the orphanage. He would come down every afternoon and bring his papers to show me. He was cute, but I would have to say that about all the children."

The decision to leave the second time was difficult, he said. If he had stayed at the orphanage another year, he was afraid he would not be able to leave his young buddy. And as a single person, he didn't think he could adopt.

After John Cope left, life at the orphanage droned on for Ty. The dormitory was crowded, and the bowls of rice were sparse.

In 1975, Vietnam fell. The orphanage director, Nguyen Xuan Ha, a Christian convert of Southern Baptist missionaries, decided to get the 82 children out of the country.

"One morning, they gave each child a bag of goodies; rice, food. The children and staff got on buses to go to the dock. On the way, we encountered — at a checkpoint or border — lots of people, lots of congestion and traffic, lots of soldiers. Gunfire broke out. [The] staff rushed us off the bus to a safe place," Ty recalled.

Ha purchased an old leaky boat. The orphans and 15 adults boarded the boat and headed out to sea.

"We were really packed in. I remember it smelled. One of the younger children vomited. Everybody was seasick. There was lots of crying. I sat beside a window for three days, watching the sea," Ty said.

The boat broke down and drifted, maybe for a day. Ty was too young to know what was going on or where the boat was headed. A ship towed the boat but soon cut the line and left them.

Three fishing boats rescued the children and took them to Singapore. During the two weeks there, Ha contact the

Baptists, who arranged for the children to be flown to Fort Chafee, Ark.

It was 1975. John Cope entered Ty's life again.

John Cope was working in Fayetteville, Ark., about an hour from Fort Chafee. He heard that a group of Vietnamese orphans had come to the United States. He contacted a missionary friend and learned where the children were.

Ty remembers his friend's arrival at Fort Chafee. "All the kids rushed him, and I couldn't get to him," Ty said. "I went around to his back and pulled on his back pocket. When he saw me, he said: 'I'll never leave you again.'"

John Cope's mother assumed the role of mom for the boy. "She made sure I was dressed well. She really did a great job taking care of me," Ty said.

Ty and his high school sweetheart, Kayla, attended Oklahoma State University and were married in 1991, the year he graduated. He also is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

Ty and Kayla have two daughters, Joy, 5, and Jill, 2.

"From the time I first knew him," his father recalled, "I prayed the Lord would call him to some kind of service."

"God works in mysterious ways."



PRAISING THE LORD — Ty Cope, founder of RiverSouth Community Church, fled Vietnam as an orphan in 1975 and was adopted by an American who had befriended him earlier in Asia. (BP photo by Dean Hoffmeyer, courtesy of the Richmond Times-Dispatch)

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
copyright 1999

SNC CRA GEML JXVV
UHZA, JRAT CRA SFX-
GAYFHHZ LREVV SA
CEPAT EJEM KFHZ CRAZ,
ETG CRAT LREVV CRAM
KELC XT CRHLA GEML.

ZEFP CJH: CJATCM

Clue: S = B

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John One: Fifteen